REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 8-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first and second paragraphs. Specifically, the Office Action rejects claim 1 for lack of enablement and clarity with respect to the feature of the antenna device being "connected to the switching circuit to supply energy in a non-contact manner ... regardless of whether the external circuit bridge is an open or closed circuit."

During an interview on July 19, 2010, Examiner Williams indicated agreement with Applicant's representatives that the specification as originally filed provides sufficient disclosure for the enablement and written description of the claimed subject matter, including claim 1 as previously presented.

Specifically, claim 1, in relevant part, recites "the antenna device being connected to the switching circuit to supply energy in a non-contact manner from outside the seal body to the switching circuit and to provide non-contact transmission of data from the switching circuit regardless of whether the external circuit bridge is an open or closed circuit."

As specifically identified in the Amendment filed on March 29, 2010, the specification as originally filed discloses a number of exemplary embodiments of a seal device comprising an antenna device connected to a switching circuit such that the claimed energy supply and data transmission functions are provided regardless of whether the external circuit bridge is an open or closed circuit. See FIGS. 3, 9, and 10 and the specification as originally filed on page 8, lines 17-31; page 11, lines 10-28; and page 11, lines 30 to page 12, line 15. Based on at least such exemplary embodiments, Applicants argued that the specification provides written description and an enabling disclosure for this claimed feature. Furthermore, Applicants argued that one skilled in the art would recognize that such functions are provided regardless of whether the external circuit bridge of the claimed seal device is an open or closed circuit based on the manner in which the antenna device is connected to the switching circuit.

Furthermore, as discussed during the interview, the specification as originally filed expressly discloses that such embodiments of an antenna device and a chip module employed in the seal device is generally referred to as a "a transponder." The specification further discloses that the antenna device in the transponder is "used ... as a connection to an external energy supply device" and "makes possible the energy supply necessary for the read-out procedure." See Page 3, lines 31-32 and page 8, lines 3-11. As further disclosed in the Specification, the

antenna device in the transponder "forms a data transmission device for non-contacting connection of a reading device ... with the data carrier formed by the chip ... of the chip module." See page 8, lines 6-11.

Based on such disclosure and as discussed during the interview, one skilled in the art would recognize, without undue experimentation, that the antenna device of the disclosed transponder can "supply energy in a non-contact manner from outside the seal body to the switching circuit and to provide non-contact transmission of data from the switching circuit" as recited in claim 1.

For at least these reasons, claims 1, 2 and 8-20 are fully enabled and clearly define the feature of an antenna device being "connected to the switching circuit to supply energy in a non-contact manner...regardless of whether the external circuit bridge is an open or closed circuit." Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, it is believed that claims 1, 2, and 8-20 are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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